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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Thomas

Attorney Docket No.: CDT002DC1

Patent: 6,986,664 B1

Issued: January 17, 2006

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
IMPROVING PERFORMANCE ON MULTIPLE-  
CHOICE EXAMS

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail on March 20, 2006 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Douglass Thomas

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION  
OF OFFICE MISTAKE  
(35 U.S.C. §254, 37 CFR §1.322)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Attn: Certificate of Correction

**Certificate  
MAR 24 2006  
of Correction**

Dear Sir:

Attached is Form PTO-1050 (Certificate of Correction) at least one copy of which is suitable for printing. The errors together with the exact page and line number where the errors are shown correctly in the application file are as follows:

**CLAIMS:**

1. In lines 4-5 of claim 1 (col. 10, line 42-43), delete "displaying, at a user's request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the question;". This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 2, claim 1.
2. In line 12 of claim 1 (col 10, line 51), "causing" should be --displaying--. This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 2, claim 1:
3. In line 13 of claim 1 (Col. 10, line 52), delete "to be displayed". This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 2, claim 1.

4. In line 16 of claim 1 (col. 10, line 55), after “user” insert the following paragraph:  
--, wherein the explanation and the visual indication are displayed concurrently--.  
This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 2, claim 1.
5. In lines 3-4 of claim 4 (col. 10, lines 65-66), “immediately and automatically”  
should be –in response to a user request--. This appears correctly in the  
Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 3, claim 4.
6. In line 8 of claim 6 (col. 11, line 13), “causing causes the” should be –displaying  
the explanation operates to display another--. This appears correctly in the  
Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 3, claim 6.
7. In line 8 of claim 11 (col. 11, line 36), “causing causes the” should be –displaying  
the explanation operates to display--. This appears correctly in the Amendment B  
filed July 3, 2005, page 4, claim 11.
8. In line 4 of claim 17 (col. 11, line 64), “immediately and automatically” should be  
–in response to a user request--. This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed  
July 3, 2005, page 5, claim 17.
9. In line 8 of claim 18 (col. 12, line 8), “causing causes the” should be –displaying  
the explanation operates to display--. This appears correctly in the Amendment B  
filed July 3, 2005, page 5, claim 18.
10. In line 1 of claim 21 (col. 12, line 17), after “A” insert –tangible--. This appears  
correctly in the Examiner’s Amendment dated February 24, 2005.
11. In line 2 of claim 21 (col. 12, line 18), “code” should be –code executable by a  
computer—. This appears correctly in the Examiner’s Amendment dated  
February 24, 2005.
12. In lines 7-9 of claim 21 (col. 12, lines 23-25), delete “computer program code for  
displaying, at a user’s request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the  
question;”. This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 6,  
claim 21.

13. In lines 35-36 of claim 21 (col. 12, line 53-54), "immediately and automatically" should be --, at a user's request,--. This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, pages 6-7, claim 21.
14. In lines 51-53 of claim 21 (col. 13, lines 2-4), delete ", though the percentage correct is based on the selected answer choice and is not effected by any newly selected answer choices". This appears correctly in the Amendment B filed July 3, 2005, page 7, claim 21.

Patentee hereby requests expedited issuance of the Certificate of Correction because the error lies with the Office and because the error is clearly disclosed in the records of the Office. As required for expedited issuance, enclosed is documentation that unequivocally supports the patentee's assertion without needing reference to the patent file wrapper.

It is noted that the above-identified errors were printing errors that apparently occurred during the printing process. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Request for Certificate of Correction. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. RLC1G000).

Respectfully submitted,



C. Douglass Thomas  
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(Also Form PT-1050)

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,986,664 B1  
DATED : January 17, 2006  
INVENTOR(S) : Thomas

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Col. 10, line 42-43, delete "displaying, at a user's request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the question;".

Col. 10, line 51, "causing" should be --displaying--.

Col. 10, line 52, delete "to be displayed".

Col. 10, line 55, after "user" insert the following paragraph: --, wherein the explanation and the visual indication are displayed concurrently--.

Col. 10, lines 65-66 "immediately and automatically" should be --in response to a user request--.

Col. 11, line 13, "causing causes the" should be --displaying the explanation operates to display another--.

Col. 11, line 36, "causing causes" should be --displaying the explanation operates to display--.

Col. 11, line 64 "immediately and automatically" should be --in response to a user request--.

Col. 12, line 8, "causing causes the" should be --displaying the explanation operates to display--.

Col. 12, line 17, after "A" insert --tangible--.

Col. 12, line 18, "code" should be --code executable by a computer--.

Col. 12, lines 23-25, delete "computer program code for displaying, at a user's request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the question;".

Col. 12, line 53-54, "immediately and automatically" should be --, at a user's request,--.

Col. 13, lines 2-4, delete ", though the percentage correct is based on the selected answer choice and is not effected by any newly selected answer choices".

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PATENT NO. 6,986,664 B1

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## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,986,664 B1  
DATED : January 17, 2006  
INVENTOR(S) : Thomas

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

- Col. 10, line 42-43, delete "displaying, at a user's request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the question;"
- Col. 10, line 51, "causing" should be --displaying--.
- Col. 10, line 52, delete "to be displayed".
- Col. 10, line 55, after "user" insert the following paragraph: --, wherein the explanation and the visual indication are displayed concurrently--.
- Col. 10, lines 65-66 "immediately and automatically" should be --in response to a user request--.
- Col. 11, line 13, "causing causes the" should be --displaying the explanation operates to display another--.
- Col. 11, line 36, "causing causes" should be --displaying the explanation operates to display--.
- Col. 11, line 64 "immediately and automatically" should be --in response to a user request--.
- Col. 12, line 8, "causing causes the" should be --displaying the explanation operates to display--.
- Col. 12, line 17, after "A" insert --tangible--.
- Col. 12, line 18, "code" should be --code executable by a computer--.
- Col. 12, lines 23-25, delete "computer program code for displaying, at a user's request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the question;"
- Col. 12, line 53-54, "immediately and automatically" should be --, at a user's request,--.
- Col. 13, lines 2-4, delete ", though the percentage correct is based on the selected answer choice and is not effected by any newly selected answer choices".

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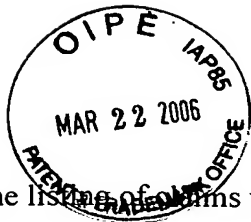
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PATENT NO. 6,986,664 B1

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AMENDMENT B  
JULY 3, 2005

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving a user's performance on multiple choice examinations, said method comprising:

displaying a question and a plurality of answer choices;

~~displaying, at a user's request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the question;~~

receiving the user's selection of one of the answer choices;

determining whether the answer choice selected by the user is the correct answer choice;

displaying a visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice;

~~displaying causing~~ an explanation of the correctness or incorrectness of the selected answer choice ~~to be displayed~~; and

displaying, at a user's request, substantive information that is linked to the question that has been presented to the user,

wherein the explanation and the visual indication are displayed concurrently.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the substantive information is text that corresponds to text provided in a textbook.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the question is associated with a topic, and wherein the substantive information pertains to detailed information on the topic of the question.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the explanation and the visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice are displayed in response to a user request ~~immediately and automatically~~ after the user has selected one of the answer choices and said determining has determined whether the answer choice selected by the user is the correct answer choice.

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the question is associated with a topic, and wherein the substantive information pertains to detailed information on the topic of the question.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein after the explanation and the visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice are displayed, said receiving the user's selection of one of the answer choices, receives a newly selected answer choice for the question, thereafter said displaying the visual indication operates to display another visual indication for the newly selected answer choice, and said displaying the explanation operates to display another ~~causing causes the~~ explanation of the correctness or incorrectness of the newly selected answer choice to be displayed.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the explanation being displayed differs depending on the one of the answer choices selected.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:  
displaying a time duration.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:  
displaying a time duration.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the explanation is dependent on the one of the answer choices selected, whereby the explanation displayed differs for each of the answer choices.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein after the explanation and the visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice are displayed, said receiving the user's selection of one of the answer choices, receives a newly selected answer choice for the question, thereafter said displaying the visual indication operates to display another visual indication for the newly selected answer choice, and said displaying the explanation operates to display ~~causing-causes~~ an explanation of the correctness or incorrectness of the newly selected answer choice to be displayed.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the explanation being displayed differs depending on the one of the answer choices selected.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1,

wherein said displaying the question and the answer choices operates to sequentially display a series of questions and their associated answer choices, the questions being associated with topics of a multiple choice examination, and each of the questions being assigned to one of the topics, and

wherein said method further comprises:

displaying performance information for the user.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the performance information includes a percentage correct for at least one of the topics associated with the questions.



15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the performance information includes an average time per question for individual topics associated with the questions.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the question is associated with a topic, and wherein the substantive information pertains to detailed information on the topic of the question.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the explanation and the visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice are displayed in response to a user request ~~immediately and automatically~~ after the user has selected one of the answer choices and said determining has determined whether the answer choice selected by the user is the correct answer choice.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein after the explanation and the visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice are displayed, said receiving the user's selection of one of the answer choices, receives a newly selected answer choice for the question, thereafter said displaying a visual indication operates to display another visual indication for the newly selected answer choice, and said displaying the explanation operates to display ~~causing causes~~ an explanation of the correctness or incorrectness of the newly selected answer choice to be displayed.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the explanation being displayed differs depending on the one of the answer choices selected.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises:

displaying a time duration.

21. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable medium including at least computer program code executable by a computer for assisting a user with preparation for an examination having multiple-choice questions, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for displaying a question and a plurality of answer choices;

~~computer program code for displaying, at a user's request, a hint to assist the user in correctly answering the question;~~

computer program code for receiving the user's selection of one of the answer choices;

computer program code for determining whether the answer choice selected by the user is the correct answer choice;

computer program code for displaying a visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice;

computer program code for causing an explanation of the correctness or incorrectness of the selected answer choice to be displayed;

computer program code for displaying, at a user's request, predetermined text that is linked to the question that has been presented to the user, the predetermined text corresponding to text provided in a textbook used in preparing for the examination;

computer program code for displaying a time duration;

computer program code for displaying, at a user's request, performance information for the user, the performance information including at least a percentage correct; and

computer program code for enabling the user to repeat those questions that where previously answered incorrectly,

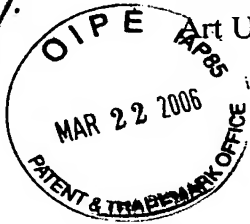
wherein the explanation and the visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice are displayed, at a user's request,

~~immediately and automatically~~ after the user has selected one of the answer choices and said computer program code for determining has determined whether the answer choice selected by the user is the correct answer choice,

wherein after the explanation and the visual indication of whether the selected answer choice is the correct answer choice are displayed, said computer program code for receiving the user's selection of one of the answer choices, can receive a newly selected answer choice for the question, thereafter said computer program code for displaying the visual indication can operate to display another visual indication for the newly selected answer choice, and said computer program code for causing can cause the explanation of the correctness or incorrectness of the newly selected answer choice to be displayed, ~~though the percentage correct is based on the selected answer choice and is not effected by any newly selected answer choices,~~ and

wherein said computer program code for displaying the question and the answer choices operates to sequentially display a series of questions and their associated answer choices, the questions being associated with topics of the examination, and each of the questions being assigned to one of the topics.

Art Unit: 3713



### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

#### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 10, 2005 has been entered.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. C. Douglass Thomas (applicant's attorney) on February 22, 2005.
4. The application has been amended as follows:  
  
In the claims:  
  
Claim 21, lines 1-3, change "A computer readable medium including at least computer program code for assisting a user with preparation for an examination having multiple-choice questions, said computer readable medium comprising:" to --A tangible computer readable medium including at least computer program code executable by a computer for assisting a user with preparation for an examination having multiple-choice questions, said computer readable medium comprising:--.